

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Published by
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. III

OCTOBER 1935

NO. 3

Condensed Report of National Board and Executive Committee Meeting At Chicago, September 16 to 20, 1935



Mrs. David O. Mears

A memorial service was held by the National Board at the Chicago meeting for Mrs. David O. Mears, beloved Chairman of Founders Day, Honorary Vicepresident, and one of the best known and best loved pioneer workers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, who died peacefully at Palo Alto, California, Saturday evening, September 7, and was buried on September 12, near her home at Essex, Massachusetts. She is survived by her son, Dr. Eliot Grinnell Mears, and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Mears was associated with the Congress from the time of its founding in 1897. She had been an Honorary Vicepresident of the Congress since 1923, prior to which time she served for eighteen years as First Vicepresident, and several times she declined the invitation to become President. Her interest in and enthusiasm for Congress work was sustained to the very end. Her generous gifts of time, energy, and money aided many worthy projects of the Congress. A tree dedicated

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New Appointments

The resignation of Mrs. Robbins Gilman, National Chairman of Motion Pictures, and the appointment of Dr. Edgar Dale to fill the vacancy, was announced on the opening day of the Board meeting.

The Board adopted a resolution expressing appreciation of the splendid work which has been done by Mrs. Gilman and her resignation was accepted with regret.

The new chairman is well known to Congress workers, particularly for his Payne Fund Studies of the Effects of Motion Pictures on Children. His leaflet, "Motion Picture Appreciation," published by the Congress last year, is widely used by Congress parent-teacher associations. Dr. Dale is Research Associate and Head of the Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, Columbus.

Mrs. Fred M. Raymond, Acting Chairman of Founders Day since 1927, was appointed Chairman to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mrs. David O. Mears.

School Boy Safety Patrol

Miss Marian Telford, National Chairman of Safety, reported on a patrol survey, as follows:

"The Safety Patrol Survey: Through field observation, individual correspondence and general circulars, opinions and information have been solicited from many national, state, and local parent-teacher officials, superintendents of city schools and chiefs of police in the 240 American cities with a population of 40,000 or over; traffic engineers and others on the operation and effectiveness of school boy safety patrols. A special effort has been made to ascertain the extent to which elementary school children

are being used as substitutes for regular traffic officers in cities with a limited number of policemen available for traffic direction at dismissal periods. This study will be continued and further reports presented."

At the request of Miss Telford the following special committee was appointed by the National President to confer on patrol problems: Chairman: Mrs. C. H. Turner, Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth, Mrs. Albert L. Smith, Mrs. A. R. Williams, and Miss Telford.

NOTE: There was nothing in the discussion of the committee or of the Board of Managers as a whole, to indicate that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers does not now, as in the past, have wholehearted interest in school boy safety patrols. The Congress firmly believes, however, that the proper function of the patrol is to aid in the direction and education of pupil pedestrians. It is unalterably opposed to the substitution of school children for regular traffic policemen at school intersections at dismissal periods.

National Youth Administration

At the request of Mr. Charles H. Taussig, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration, who outlined its policies and plans, the Board appointed the following committee to keep in touch with the Youth Administration: Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, Mrs. F. H. Devere, Mrs. Hugh Bradford, Mrs. Scott Wood, and Dr. William McKinley Robinson.

Social Security Act

The Board re-affirmed its approval of the program for maternal and child health service, service to crippled children, and child welfare services of the United States Children's Bureau, under the Social Security Act, and urged that the

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original administration fund of \$425,000 be retained, suggesting that the presidents of the state branches represented on the House and Senate Appropriations Committee contact these committee members in the interest of retention of this administration fund.

National Convention

Plans for the 1936 Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, next May were discussed by the Executive Committee. Mrs. Hugh Bradford is chairman of the Convention Management Committee.

The time of selecting the National Convention city was changed from May to the September Executive Committee meeting, and inaugurating this new procedure, Richmond, Virginia, was selected by the Executive Committee for the 1937 Convention. Invitations for 1937 were also received from New York, for New York City; Pennsylvania, for Pittsburgh; Missouri, for St. Louis; and Texas, for Dallas. California invited the Congress to meet in San Francisco for the 1938 Convention.

International and Hawaii Conventions

Mrs. Langworthy reported her summer trips to Hawaii, where she attended the convention of the Hawaii Congress, and to Oxford, England, to biennial conventions of the World Federation of Education Associations and International Federation of Home and School. She was re-elected Director for the United States, by the International Federation, it having been decided to have only one director from each country.

Miss Ishbel MacDonald, of Great Britain, was re-elected President, and Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Philadelphia, was elected Honorary President.

National Parent-Teacher Magazine

The National President was authorized to appoint a committee to be responsible for preparing by January 1936, the 1936-37 P.T.A. program for the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*.

Resolutions

The 1936 Resolutions were discussed, under the leadership of Ellen C. Lombard, Resolutions Chairman. States are requested to send in their suggestions on Resolutions to Miss Lombard as soon as possible.

Visitors

The following visitors were invited to sit with the Board: Mrs. M. H. Tallman, of Miami, First Vicepresident, representing the Florida Congress in the absence of Mrs. W. Sumner Covey; Mr. Earle R. MacAusland, publisher of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*; Mrs. C. E. Sabin, of Vermont; and Mr. J. H. Montgomery, Executive Secretary of Virginia, representing the Virginia Congress in the absence of Dr. W. T. Sanger.

Publicity

Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig, Chicago, Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Publicity Division, was in charge of publicity for the Board meeting.

Congress Songbook

The Board accepted the compilation of songs for a Congress Songbook presented by Mayme E. Irons, National Chairman of Music. This songbook will be published by the National Congress in the near future.

Our Public Schools Supplement

Mrs. Francis H. Blake, New York State President, reported the publication of a state pamphlet on state education, supplementary to *Our Public Schools*. Other presidents reported that plans for publishing similar pamphlets were under consideration in their states.

Fortieth Anniversary in 1937

In 1937, the National Congress will observe the fortieth anniversary of its founding. Mrs. William J. Hayes, Burlingame, California, is chairman of the committee which will plan the observance.

Child Hygiene

A new pamphlet on Child Hygiene, by Mary Murphy, Child Hygiene Chairman, will be published by the Congress during the coming year.

More Time for Board Discussion

Because more time is needed for thoughtful consideration of many problems, it was decided that in the future the Board should meet for four days, instead of three.

Eyesight Conservation

Mrs. Hugh Bradford announced that the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is publishing three articles on "The Conservation of Eyesight and Lighting," the first having appeared in the September issue, the other two to appear in October and December. The Magazine will have reprints made of the three articles to be distributed to all locals.

Citizenship Outline

An outline on citizenship was authorized, to be prepared under the direction of Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, Legislation Chairman.

Yearbook on Home

The Publications Committee reported that a book on the home is being planned, to be published as the *Fifth Parent Education Yearbook*. Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Chairman of the Parent Education Committee of the Congress, will be the editor.

State Bylaws

The special committee on State Bylaws, Mrs. Orville T. Bright, Chairman, was made a standing committee. Mrs. Bright, who is also an Honorary Vicepresident, met with the Board during the week.

Sympathy

The following Resolution of sympathy was adopted by the Board upon learning of the death of Mrs. William L. Russell, sister of Mrs.

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NEW LEGISLATION CODE AND 1936 LEGISLATION PROGRAM ADOPTED

A new legislation code, suggested by Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, National Legislation Chairman, was adopted. It provides that all legislative proposals shall be studied by a special Legislation Study Committee consisting of the first and second vicepresidents, the legislation chairman, and three state presidents named by the State Presidents' Conference before being considered by the Executive Committee and the National Board. If the proposed item is voted on favorably by the Executive Committee and a majority of the Board, with not less than 50% of the state presidents present, the legislation will then be referred to the state Congresses of Parents and Teachers. State boards representing a majority of the National Congress membership, but in no case less than 26 states, must indorse the proposal before it is included in the National legislation program. It is believed that the new code will provide more adequate opportunity for all Congress members to have a voice in shaping this program.

In accordance with the new code, the following Legislation Study Committee was appointed: Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, Dr. W. T. Sanger, Mrs. C. H. Turner, Mrs. A. R. Williams, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, and Mrs. Hamilton Shaffer.

The Committee on Legislation was made a committee-at-large working under the direction of the National President and her aides.

LEGISLATION PROGRAM FOR 1936

Approved by the Board of Managers

1. International Relations

Promotion of international peace through justice and education—

- Support Permanent Court of International Justice.
- Support reduction of armaments by mutual agreement.
- Study Constitutional Amendment on war referendum and taking profit out of war.

2. Motion Pictures

- Abolition of compulsory block-booking and blind-selling of motion pictures.

- Centralized control of selection and treatment of subject material used in process of production through a politically appointed Federal Commission.

3. Federal Food and Drug Act

Continued active support including provisions which afford greatest consumer protection.

4. Federal Aid for Education

A. Emergency Aid

- To keep open schools which otherwise would be closed without provision for education of children involved.
- To erect school buildings after competent, approved surveys.

B. Permanent Aid

- Federal funds for equalization of educational opportunity among the several states on a basis of need after a "maximum effort has been made by the states," i.e., after states (1) have consolidated one-room schools and small tax districts on basis of competent surveys; (2) equalized educational opportunity within state boundaries; and (3) levied taxes for education comparable with the best practice in other states.
- To provide educational opportunities for children of Government employees on federally owned property—army posts, national parks, reservations, etc.

5. Election of Board of Education of District of Columbia

6. Department of Education

Continue to support the establishment of a Department of Education and to oppose the creation of a Department of Art, Science, and Literature (Sirovich Bill, H. J. Res 220) except as part of a Department of Education.

7. Advertising Intoxicating Liquors

Support legislation opposing the transportation in interstate commerce through the newspaper, periodical, news reel, photographic film, or radio, of advertisements of intoxicating liquors.

8. Housing or Slum Clearance

Support legislation providing for limited Federal participation in slum clearance projects for persons in such low income brackets that they are unable to secure suitable housing facilities through the usual private construction methods.

New Pamphlet

Our Home Education Chairman, Ellen C. Lombard, Associate Specialist in Parent Education, U. S. Office of Education, is the author of a new pamphlet entitled, "Parent Education Opportunities," published by the U. S. Office of Education. This bulletin describes the activities of agencies which have had parent education programs since 1930 and presents a concise view of the parent education field in the United States. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., price 10 cents.

Condensed Report of National Board Meeting

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Langworthy and Mrs. Kimball, which occurred three days before the Board meeting:

"We wish to express to our President and her secretary our deepest sympathy. At a time when sorrowing hearts might well make an absorbing personal claim we appreciate keenly the courage and devotion with which the work of the meeting has been undertaken."

Farm and Home Safety Campaign

The Board voted, in accordance with its long-time policy of cooperation with the American Red Cross, to assist in the Red Cross Farm and Home Safety Campaign launched on October 1.

9. National Lottery

Oppose the enactment of any legislation to create a National Lottery or to legalize any form of gambling.

10. Adequate Support of:

- Office of Education, U. S. Department of the Interior (Research, Homemaking, Library Service).
- Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.
- Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Division of Extension in Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Rural Sanitation, U. S. Public Health Service.

PARENT-TEACHER RADIO FORUM

N.B.C.—WJZ Blue Network

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:00 p. m., E.S.T.

Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the University of Chicago

November 6

New Occupational Opportunities—Robert Hoppock, Field Secretary, National Occupational Conference, New York City.

November 13

Recreation in the Education of Youth—A. J. Todd, Professor, Sociology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

November 20

Education of the Child as an Individual—Willard W. Beatty, President, Progressive Education Association, Bronxville, N. Y.

November 27

Progress in Elementary Education—Bess Goodykoontz, Assistant Commissioner of Education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

December 4

The Guidance of Children's Reading—William S. Gray, Professor of Education, University of Chicago.

December 11

Education for the Very Young—Edna Dean Baker, President, National College of Education, Evanston, Illinois.

December 18

Environment Molds Your Child—Frank N. Freeman, Professor, Education Psychologist, University of Chicago.

Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago will be the speaker on October 16. His topic will be "The Lengthening Dependence of Young People."

Mrs. David O. Mears

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to her was planted at the National Convention in Hot Springs in 1931.

A direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, Mrs. Mears was born in Grinnell, Iowa, the daughter of J. B. Grinnell, founder of the town and college which bear his name. After her marriage, she worked with her husband in his parishes in Massachusetts, Ohio, and New York. She often related the story of how she became interested in the first meeting of the National Congress of Mothers through her husband's suggestion, and how she spoke from his pulpit in behalf of the organization following her attendance at the first meeting in 1897. She helped to organize the New York State Congress, the first state branch, and served as its president from 1898 to 1905. It was at her suggestion that February 17 was designated in 1910 as Founders Day and its observance has been an annual affair ever since.

Mrs. Mears has contributed more than any other person toward preserving the historical records of the Congress. She kept voluminous rec-

ords of the history of the National Congress of Mothers, and her personal scrapbooks and files, containing hundreds of Congress programs, leaflets, speeches, clippings and other documents, supplied the material for the little historical volume, *Through the Years*, an account of the early days of the Congress, published in 1932. Only a few months prior to her death, Mrs. Mears deposited permanently in the National Office her treasured records of the beginnings of the Congress.

Mrs. Mears was a woman of infinite kindness and rare beauty of body and spirit. The Congress mourns a great loss in her passing.

Summer Round-Up Reports

Reports of the 1935 Summer Round-Up campaign are due in the National Office before November 1. Material for the 1936 campaign is now available and will be distributed to local units by the state Summer Round-Up chairmen.

Parent-Teacher Week

Parent-Teacher Week will be observed in the following states this fall:

Alabama—October 20-26

Florida—October 14-20

Idaho—October 6-12

Iowa—October 6-12

Kentucky—October 14-20

Maine—October

Mississippi—October 13-20

Missouri—September 23-30

Nebraska—October 6-12

New Hampshire—October 20-26

Wisconsin—October 7-12

The Governor of North Carolina has set aside one month, October 15 to November 15, as the period in which an effort will be made to extend the membership.

American Education Week

Parent-Teacher associations throughout the Nation will join in the fifteenth annual observance of American Education Week, November 11 to 17. A packet of excellent program material is available from the National Education Association, Washington, D. C., price 50 cents. The National Congress also has a list of program references, send stamped self-addressed envelop.

News and Notes

Section meeting of the National Congress at the convention of the American Home Economics Association and the National Education Association, at which Mrs. Pettengill represented the Congress, were well attended and further cemented our friendly relationship with these two groups.

From Milwaukee comes word that already local committees are being set up to plan for the National Convention to be held there next May. Mrs. W. A. Hastings and her colleagues believe in taking time by the forelock.

There is an article in the October, 1935, issue of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* which will be of special interest to teachers. It is called, "Education Can Change Intelligence."